

## CHAPTER 10. TRAFFIC SAFETY

A. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Chapter is to provide policy and guidance for implementing a Coast Guard-wide traffic safety program.

B. **SCOPE.** This Chapter applies to motor vehicle operators, passengers, bicyclists and pedestrians as follows:

1. All Coast Guard military personnel at all times (on and off Coast Guard installations).
2. All Coast Guard civilian personnel in a duty status (on and off Coast Guard installations).
3. All persons in any vehicle owned, controlled or authorized for official use by the U. S. Coast Guard.
4. All persons at any time on a Coast Guard installation.

C. **DEFINITIONS.**

1. All terrain vehicle (ATV). Motorized vehicle with three or more wheels, low pressure tires, a wheel base of 50 inches or less, an overall weight of 600 pounds or less, and a seat to be straddled by the operator. This definition does not apply to special purpose vehicles such as golf carts. ATVs are designed for off-road use and are not constructed to carry passengers.
2. Motor vehicles. Wheeled vehicles designed for travel on public roads under motor power or assisted by motor power.
3. Motorcycle. A two-wheeled vehicle, similar but heavier than a bicycle, driven by a gasoline engine. For purposes of this Chapter, motor scooters and motorized bicycles with or without pedals (on and off road) are included in this definition.

D. **AUTHORITY.** The principal laws requiring national traffic safety programs are:

- a. Public Law 89-563, National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, as amended (15 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.).
- b. Public Law 89-564, Highway Safety Act of 1966, as amended (23 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

**10-E. REGULATIONS AND OTHER DIRECTIVES.** Regulations and other directives affecting this Chapter include:

- a. 49 CFR 571, Federal Motor Vehicle Standards.
  - b. DOT Order 3902.9(Series), Safety Belt Use.
  - c. COMDTINST M11240.9(Series), Motor Vehicle Manual.
  - d. COMDTINST 5100.46, Driving Under The Influence of Intoxicants.
  - e. COMDTINST M5530.1(Series), Physical Security Manual.
- F. BACKGROUND.** Congress enacted two public laws, "The National Highway and Motor Vehicle Safety Act" and "The Highway Safety Act" in 1966. The purpose of these Acts was to reduce traffic accidents and deaths, injuries and property damage by establishing motor vehicle safety standards and implementing approved highway safety programs. Since the inception of these Acts, numerous state laws have been enacted that include (but are not limited to) safety belts, motorcycle helmets, and child safety restraints.

**G. MOTOR VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS.**

**1. Occupant Restraints.**

- a. U. S. manufactured vehicles of model years 1965 and newer must have installed occupant restraints. Vehicles manufactured prior to 1965 must have occupant restraints installed if required by host state laws.
- b. Occupant restraint assemblies must be maintained in serviceable condition and be readily available for operator and passenger use. All commercial vehicles either purchased, leased, or rented by the Coast Guard, must be equipped with serviceable occupant restraint devices and rollover protective devices as required by 49 CFR 571.208-210.
- c. All personnel operating or riding in a government or private motor vehicle on any Coast Guard installation shall properly use installed occupant restraints at all times. Individuals shall not ride in seating positions where safety belts have not been installed, have been removed or rendered inoperative. Additionally, passengers shall not ride in the cargo areas of motor vehicles, except when the vehicle has been modified for such purposes. Prior to use as a passenger vehicle, modifications shall include installation of safety belts which meet 49 CFR 571.208-210.

- 10-G-1. d. All Coast Guard personnel (military and civilian) operating or riding in government or private motor vehicles shall have their safety belt properly fastened about their body while on official Government business.
- e. All Coast Guard military personnel are required to wear safety belts properly fastened about their body at all times while travelling in any motor vehicle that is required to be so equipped.
- f. The operator of the motor vehicle is responsible for informing all passengers of applicable safety belt, child car safety seat, and protective equipment requirements and for ensuring compliance by all passengers with those requirements.
2. Alcoholic Beverages. While driving on any Coast Guard installation, the operator and/or passenger(s) of motor vehicles are prohibited from having open containers of alcoholic beverages in their possession. Policy governing intoxicated driving is established in COMDTINST 5100.46.
3. Traffic Requirements. Road networks on Coast Guard facilities shall be maintained in a safe condition. Capital improvements to modernize existing roads or to provide new traffic facilities shall meet the safety standards issued or endorsed by the Federal Highway Administration. Traffic codes shall comply with the traffic codes of the state in which the facility is located.
4. Motorcycle Operators.
- a. Operators of privately owned motorcycles must possess a current license and motorcycle endorsement (where required) from civil authorities to operate on public highways.
- b. All Coast Guard military personnel who operate a motorcycle shall successfully complete the appropriate Motorcycle Safety Foundation course (see paragraph J.2.). Individuals operating a motorcycle on any Coast Guard facility must also successfully complete an appropriate Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) course. Individuals who are required to register their motorcycles at a Coast Guard unit must provide proof of successfully completing the appropriate course prior to registration. Registration requirements are outlined in COMDTINST M5530.1A.

- 10-G-4. c. Motorcycles shall have headlights on when they are operated and shall be equipped with rear view mirrors.
- d. Passengers are prohibited on MOPEDS.
- e. All motorcycle operators and passengers shall wear the following protective equipment:
- (1) A DOT approved motorcycle helmet properly fastened under the chin.
  - (2) Properly worn eye protective devices which are defined as impact or shatter resistant glasses, goggles or full-face shield attached to helmet. A windshield or fairing is not considered to be proper eye protection.
  - (3) Over the ankle, sturdy leather footwear,
  - (4) Full-fingered leather gloves
  - (5) Long-legged trousers and
  - (6) Long-sleeved shirt or jacket.
- e. Motorcycle operators and passengers are strongly encouraged to wear high visibility garments (reflective vests or retro-reflective strips on clothing).

5. ATV operators.

- a. All Coast Guard personnel who operate an ATV on official business or on any Coast Guard installation (regardless of purpose or duty status) shall successfully complete an approved ATV safety course (see paragraph J.4.).
- b. ATV operators are required to wear the same protective equipment as motorcycle operators. (see paragraph G.4.e.)
- c. Passengers are prohibited on ATVs.

H. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.

- 1. Commands will stress pedestrian safety as part of the overall traffic safety program, to include separating pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic. Provisions shall be made for adequate sidewalks, jogging routes, pedestrian crossings and bicycle paths to ensure maximum safe traffic flow without jeopardizing pedestrian safety.

- 10-H-2. Personnel shall not jog on main roads and streets of Coast Guard facilities during peak traffic periods and high density traffic. Jogging on roads and streets of Coast Guard installations should be avoided; personnel should be encouraged to use jogging facilities where available. When jogging on roads and streets, personnel should wear light colored clothing. During periods of reduced visibility (i.e., nighttime, fog, rain, etc.) personnel should wear retro-reflective clothing.
3. Strong emphasis shall be placed on the protection of children walking to and from school, entering and leaving school buses, and playing in Coast Guard housing areas.
4. The wearing of portable headphones, earphones or other listening devices while operating a motor vehicle, jogging, walking, skating or bicycling on roads or streets on any Coast Guard facility is prohibited. Use of these devices masks or prevents recognition of emergency signals, alarms, announcements, the approach of vehicles, human speech, and the ability to determine the direction from which the sound is coming.

#### I. BICYCLE SAFETY.

1. All persons who operate a bicycle on a Coast Guard facility shall wear an approved bicycle helmet properly fastened under the chin. There are two nationally recognized safety standards for bicycle helmets sold in the United States- the Snell Memorial Foundation and the American National Standards Institute.
2. Coast Guard military personnel who operate a bicycle off base shall comply with the host state and local traffic laws and are strongly encouraged to wear bicycle helmets.
3. Bicycle riders should wear light colored clothing. During periods of reduced visibility (i.e., nighttime, fog, rain, etc.) personnel should wear retro-reflective clothing. Vests, jackets, tape, wrist bands and other items are available that make a rider visible to motorists.
4. The following applies to carrying a child as a passenger on an adult's bike on Coast Guard facilities and is strongly recommended off base:

- 10-I-4. a. Only competent adult cyclists shall carry young passengers.
- b. Bicycle riding is restricted to parks, bicycle paths or quiet streets.
- c. Infants too young to sit in a rear bike seat shall not be carried on a bicycle. Back or front packs are prohibited.
- d. Only children who are old enough to sit well unsupported and whose necks are strong enough to support a light-weight helmet may be carried in a rear-mounted seat.
- e. A rear-mounted seat shall be securely attached over the rear wheel; have spoke guards to prevent feet and hands from being caught in the wheels; and have a high back and a sturdy shoulder harness and lap belt that will support a sleeping child.

J. **TRAINING.**

1. **Driver Improvement Course.** A driver improvement course shall be used to reinforce positive attitudes and motivate individuals who have been convicted of serious moving traffic violations or determined to have been at fault in a serious traffic mishap while operating a government motor vehicle. Offenders, military and civilian, shall be required to attend such a course as a condition of continued authorized use of a motor vehicle on a Coast Guard facility or while on authorized travel. The course duration will not exceed 8 hours. The American Automobile Association Driver Improvement Program (DIP) or the National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course (DDC) may be used. It is strongly encouraged that commands require high risk drivers (ages 17-26) at their units to attend a driver improvement course. The Maintenance and Logistic Commands (MLCs) provide this training upon request.
2. **MSF Rider Courses.** Coast Guard personnel shall satisfactorily complete one of the two MSF motorcycle safety courses listed below in order to operate a motorcycle. Refresher training (Experienced Rider Course) is required to be successfully completed every three years. Proof of course completion is possession of an MSF course completion card. Commands that do not have a certified MSF instructor can contact the appropriate MLC Safety Branch for assistance in identifying training sources.

- 10-J-2. a. **Motorcycle Rider Course: Riding and Street Skills (MRC:RSS)** is designed for the novice rider (less than 6 months riding experience). This course has 7 hours of classroom instruction and 8 hours of hands-on training and evaluation that includes instruction in defensive riding techniques, use of personal protective equipment, and related subjects essential for safely operating a motorcycle. Only MSF-certified instructors are permitted to teach this course.
- b. **Experienced Rider Course (ERC)** is designed for riders with more than 6 months of riding experience. Course provides 4 hours of classroom instruction and 4 hours of hands-on training and evaluation. Only MSF-certified instructors are permitted to teach this course.
3. **MSF Instructor Course.** Commands with a large motorcycle rider population who need an instructor should select an individual who is interested in becoming an MSF instructor. The individual selected shall submit a letter request to Commandant (G-KSE-2) via the chain of command addressing the qualifications listed below. A copy of the individual's motor vehicle driving record from his/her license state shall be forwarded with the letter request. The MSF Certified Instructor Course is a 16 day course designed for individuals who meet the following basic requirements:
- a. Own and operate a motorcycle in good operating condition.
- b. Possess a valid motorcycle license or endorsement.
- c. Have a clean driving record.
- d. Experienced motorcyclist (minimum 2 years riding experience).
- e. Have the endorsement of his/her command so that upon satisfactorily completion of the course the individual will be available to instruct the motorcycle course once a month at that command.
- f. During this training, the instructor candidate must successfully complete each of the following phases to continue training:
- (a) Pass a qualifying skill test.

10-J-3. f. (b) Pass a written knowledge test.

(c) Pass the student teaching phase of the course.

Instructors shall attend and satisfactorily complete a three-day update every three years or when major changes occur in the Rider Course.

4. **ATV Course.** All personnel who operate any ATV on official business or on any Coast Guard installation (regardless of purpose or duty status) shall successfully complete the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA), ATV Safety Institute (ASI) Rider Course. This course is 5½ to 7 hours in length and includes safe riding techniques and strategies, local laws, required personal protective equipment, and vehicle orientation. Proof of successful completion is a SVIA course completion card. It is the responsibility of the ATV user command to ensure this training is completed. Contact the SVIA at (800) 447-4700 for information on training courses nationwide.

K. **AWARENESS AND PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS.** Commands shall conduct awareness and promotional campaigns as part of an overall traffic safety program. The Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration sponsor several national campaigns throughout the year in conjunction with state traffic safety programs aimed at reducing fatalities and injuries on our nation's highways. Each state has a Highway Safety Representative appointed by the Governor who manages the State/Federal Highway Safety Grant Safety Program and who can provide promotional materials and information about particular state projects and programs designed to accomplish this goal. Enclosure (1) provides the addresses and phone numbers of the Governor's Representatives. The MLCs have films available for command use on the various campaign topics. The following is a list of the national awareness and promotional campaigns:

1. **Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week.** This campaign is observed during the week that includes Valentine's Day and is designed to encourage parents and others to correctly secure children in child safety seats and safety belts every time the child rides in a motor vehicle.



- 10-K-2. Summertime Seatbelt Campaign. The "Buckle Up America! Week" in May (starts one week prior to Memorial Day) is the beginning of the Summertime Seatbelt campaign. This campaign focuses on the importance of seatbelt usage and continues through Labor Day.
3. National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Campaign. The second week in December is designated the National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week. However, the Coast Guard begins this campaign prior to Thanksgiving and continues through New Years Day to cover the entire holiday season when people are at a higher risk of drinking and driving.
4. Motorcycle Safety Campaigns. These campaigns are conducted on a state-by-state basis. May and June are traditionally the months when states promote motorcycle safety focusing on motorist awareness. Special activities and promotions are scheduled for either one designated week or an entire month depending upon the state program. Information and materials for these campaigns can be obtained from the State Motorcycle Safety Coordinator. Enclosure (2) provides a list of addresses and phone numbers of these coordinators. Contact the appropriate MLC Safety Branch for assistance where there is no state Motorcycle Safety Coordinator.

L. RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. MLC Commander (k) shall:
  - a. Provide driver improvement training to units.
  - b. Provide assistance to units, upon request, pertaining to such things as motorcycle training sources, traffic awareness sources and promotions and campaigns, including promotional materials.
  - c. Review unit plans and activities during audits to ensure a comprehensive traffic safety plan is implemented.
2. Unit commanding officers/officers-in-charge shall:
  - a. Ensure a comprehensive traffic safety plan is implemented and enforced that includes the following:
    - (1) Written policy and guidance in compliance with this Chapter.

10-L-2. a. (2) Orientation of newly assigned personnel on unit traffic safety requirements.

(3) Training requirements.

(4) Awareness and promotional campaigns.

3. Individuals shall acquaint themselves with state, local and Coast Guard traffic safety requirements and comply with same. All Coast Guard personnel have a personal responsibility to safeguard themselves, their families and their fellow workers from harm.

10-M. GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES

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Business, Housing and  
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State of Alaska  
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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## GEORGIA

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## KENTUCKY

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## MAINE

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MARYLAND

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Coordinator of Rider Ed.  
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608 E. Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0700  
(701) 224-4354

OHIO

Motorcycle Safety Coordinator  
Department of Highway Safety  
P. O. Box 7199  
Columbus, OH 43266-0563  
(614) 466-6855

OREGON

Traffic Safety Commission  
4th Floor, State Library Bldg.  
Salem, OR 97310  
(503) 378-3669

PENNSYLVANIA

Manager, MC Safety Program  
Bureau of Driver Licensing  
Rm. 415, Transportation &  
Safety Bldg.  
Harrisburg, PA 17123  
(717) 787-9723

RHODE ISLAND

Community Services  
Louis Quissett Pike/CCRI  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
(401) 333-7070

SOUTH CAROLINA

Dir. of Interagency Affairs  
Technical Education  
111 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia, SC 29210  
(803) 737-9343

SOUTH DAKOTA

Motorcycle Safety Coordinator  
South Dakota Safety Council  
3021 E. 10 Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103  
(605) 338-0472

TENNESSEE

Motorcycle Safety Coordinator  
Dept. of Safety, Training Div.  
1140 Foster Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37249-1000  
(615) 741-5664

TEXAS

Department of Public Safety  
Motorcycle Safety Bureau  
P. O. Box 4087  
Austin, TX 78773-0001  
(512) 465-2021

UTAH

Commercial Driver Lic. Div.  
3495 South, 300 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115  
(801) 262-2570

VERMONT

Department of Motor Vehicles  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
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VIRGINIA

Manager, Motorcycle Safety  
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WASHINGTON

Motorcycle Safety Program  
Department of Licensing  
211 12th Avenue, SE  
Olympia, WA 98504  
(206) 586-1424

WEST VIRGINIA

State Coordinator  
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725 Jefferson Road  
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WISCONSIN

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